EDUARDO CHIVAMBO MONDLANE

June 1920 - February 1969

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Church Center for the United Nations
February 13, 1969
12:00 Noon
OPENING WORDS

The Reverend George Houser

We are gathered together here in memory of a great Mozambican, Eduardo Mondlane. We here represent Africa, America, Europe, and Asia. We are Moslem, Catholic, Protestant and Jew. But we are united in our love and respect for Eduardo Mondlane, and in our commitment to the cause of freedom, a cause for which Eduardo lived his life, and in which he gave his life.

Each portion of it will succeed another without special announcement as it is outlined on the program each of us has.

It is appropriate at the beginning of this service to remind ourselves briefly of Eduardo's life, for, although he was an African from Mozambique, he was also a world figure and before his tragic death had traveled to most parts of the world. Undoubtedly he will be remembered in an historical sense because he was the leader of a national movement for the liberation of his country. And yet how unlike a revolutionary figure he seemed to many of those who knew him in this country. He had a friendly gentle, learned manner and fit the image of a college professor to those who met him in New York, at the United Nations, or in Syracuse. More familiarity with his background in Africa might make the reality of a great nationalist figure more definite.

Eduardo Mondlane was born in 1920 in the Gaza District of southern Mozambique. His father was chief in a section known as Khambane. His father died when Eduardo was very young and his mother and elder brothers raised him.
In an autobiographical sketch which appears as part of an article by him in *Southern Africa in Transition*, Eduardo explained that as a child he herded cattle and sheep. But his mother insisted when he was 10 that he must be educated. Thus began his long educational career which took him to a governmental rudimentary school, where he learned Portuguese, to mission schools, and then to a primary school in Laurence Marques. This was as high as he could go in Mozambique. He took some special agricultural training, and then taught dry farming to the people in his own home area for two years.

In 1944 he was granted a scholarship to a high school in the northern Transvaal and receive a matriculation certificate. After a brief time at the Jan Hefmeyr School of Social Studies in Johannesburg, he was offered a scholarship to Witwatersrand University. But after the Nationalist Party of South Africa came into power, its apartheid doctrine did not look sympathetically on an African in a white university and his scholarship was withdrawn. Thus he had to return to Mozambique. The Portuguese authorities arrested him and for three days and nights he was questioned because of his activities in South Africa of organizing Mozambiquan students. This was his first brush with the police. He was released but was now looked upon with apprehension by the authorities. It was thought best, apparently, to give him a scholarship in Portugal to get him out of Mozambique.

A Portuguese government scholarship took him to Lisbon University. Here he met other African nationalist figures prominent now -- Dr. Agostinho Neto, Mario Pinto de Andrade -- Marcelino dos Santos -- his co-worker in Frelimo. During this year in Lisbon, Eduardo wrote of constant harassment by the secret police (PIDE), the ransacking of his room in a search for
documents which would be evidence of subversive activities. This harassment led to his decision to continue his education elsewhere.

In 1951 he came to the United States on a scholarship. He graduated from Oberlin College in 1953, received an M.A. from Northwestern University in 1956, and his PhD in 1960.

From 1957 to 1961 he served with the secretariat of the United Nations. He left this position in the autumn of 1961 to teach at Syracuse University. Thus he was freed from any possible restraint against participating in the Liberation movement of Mozambique. The independence of Tanzania in December 1961, made it possible for a liberation movement to exist on friendly soil, and Eduardo planned his return to Africa. In mid 1962 Eduardo played a key role in the unity conference of several Monzambiqan nationalist movements. Frelimo was founded. Their first Congress was held in September 1962 and Eduardo was elected president. All of Eduardo's time and energy was given to Mozambique liberation after he returned to Africa. He, and all of Frelimo's supporters, were convinced that only a violent struggle could lead to their freedom. This phase of the struggle began September 25, 1964. As Eduardo wrote in a paper for Kitwe Seminar in 1967, "The only path open to them for regaining their lost political power is by direct action, involving armed struggle against the whole structure upon which the colonial system is built."

In 1956, Eduardo married Janet Johnson. They have three children. Janet devoted herself completely to the struggle for liberation and alongside Eduardo took the risk accompanying their position.
At the second Frelimo Congress held inside Mozambique in July last year, Eduardo was again elected President, a position he was to have held for the next four years.

Eduardo was an eternal optimist. Whatever setbacks he had he felt were only temporary. He felt secure in Frelimo. He recognized the personal risks he ran. He once said, "I may be killed any day, but there will be victory". I wonder if he wrote the words for the Frelimo Christmas card of 1968 which read in part: "Neither time nor difficulties matter; for us what matters is to know that Mozambique will be free".

In a memorial service to a good friend and a leader, it is well not only to remember him but in the remembering to draw inspiration. I met Eduardo within a few weeks after he arrived in the U.S. and maintained contact with him over the years -- at Northwestern, at the U.N., at Syracuse, and saw him many times in Africa, most recently two months ago. His life took on special meaning to me. Eduardo had it made, we might say. He didn't have to go through the rough and tumble politics of the liberation struggle in Africa. He could have lived a comfortable life in the U.S. and talked about revolution. He could have been a successful professor in innumerable universities in the U.S., Britain, and even, at one stage, the Portuguese tried to entice him to a university post and thus get him out of the way. But Eduardo shunned these easy solutions to his life work. It was not of any simple necessity that Eduardo returned to Africa to engage in the struggle. He chose to do it. This led to his tragic death, but much more important is the fact that this gave ultimate meaning to his life.
SCRIPTURE AND PRAYER

Dr. Theodore Tucker
Executive Director
Africa Department
National Council of Churches

Scripture:

Exodus, Chapter 5, Verses 1 - 6 and Hebrews, Chapter 11, Verses 24 - 27

Prayer:

O God our Father from whom we come and to whom we turn and in whom we live and move and have our being we praise thee for thy good gift of life, for its wonder and mystery, its friendships and fellowships. We thank thee for the ties that bind us one to another. We bless thee for thy loving and patient dealing with us, whereby thou dost ever teach us thy way. For the meaning that lies hidden in the heart of sorrow, disappointment and grief and for thy guiding hand among the way of our pilgrimage. We give thanks to thee for thy servant Eduardo, recalling all in him that made others love him. We bless thee for the good and gracious influences in his African home and training, for all that ministered to him and to his best life. We thank thee for the goodness and truth that have passed from his life into the lives of others and have made the world richer for his presence. We thank thee for his devotion to freedom for his people in Mozambique, his search for justice, his dedication to the cause, and his giving of life itself. Give courage to his colleagues, that they may go forward steadily, strengthen his wife Janet and the children that they may continue firm in the quest for liberty. And touch the hearts of the Portuguese government and people, that they may willingly accept freedom for Mozambique. We thank thee that deep in the human heart is an unquenchable trust that life does not end
with death, that the Father who made us will care for us beyond the
bounds of vision even as he has cared for us in this earthly world.
Grant us beseech thee the comfort of thy presence and the ministry
of thy holy spirit. Renew within us the gifts of faith, patience and
enduring love. Help us to walk amid the things of this world with
eyes open to the beauty and glory of the eternal, that so among the
sundry and manifold changes of this life our hearts may surely be
fixed where true joys are to be found. Through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.
TRIBUTES

Secretary General, U Thant
Represented by Mr. Issoufou Saidou Djerma koye
Under Secretary General

On this solemn occasion of the memorial service for the late leader of the Frente de Libertacao de Mozambique, Mr. Eduardo Mondlane, I wish, on behalf of the Secretary-General, to express my deep sense of sadness and grief at the untimely loss, in such tragic circumstances, of one of the outstanding African leaders of our time. Our grief is made more personal when we recall that Mr. Mondlane was a colleague of ours, who for a number of years worked with us in the Secretariat as a member of our own Department. Coupled with my feelings of regret and sorrow is a sense of outrage at the continued existence of forces which are obstructing the endeavours of the peoples of dependent Territories to achieve their legitimate right to self-determination.

The United Nations has for many years given its consistent support for the principle of self-determination and the unconditional attainment of national independence by Territories still under colonial domination. It has done a great deal to encourage and to assist the emergence of dependent peoples. The adoption in 1960 of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples constituted a principal landmark in the efforts of the Organization towards the realization of the purposes and objectives of the Charter as regards dependent peoples.

Since that time, the General Assembly has, as is well known, taken a number of decisions which represent a notable development of the principles embodied in that Declaration. The concept of the inalienable right of colonial peoples to self-determination and independence has become co-extensive with the recognition of the legitimacy of the struggle of these peoples to achieve the effective exercise and enjoyment of that right.
It is on the basis of this recognition that the General Assembly has noted with satisfaction the progress made in the colonial Territories by the national liberation movements, both through their struggle and through reconstruction programmes, and repeatedly urged all states to provide moral and material assistance to them.

It is against this background that we at the United Nations mourn the loss of this dedicated leader of a proud national liberation movement. It is against the same background that I express the confidence that the principles and the cause for which Mr. Mondlane lived will inspire the millions of peoples still under colonial rule to redouble their efforts to achieve freedom and emancipation in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations.

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I should like on this occasion to express my heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Mrs. Mondlane and to her family. I should also like to express my sincere appreciation to the American Committee of Africa, and in particular to its Executive Director, Mr. George M. Houser, for affording friends and colleagues of the late Mr. Mondlane this opportunity to pay tribute to his memory and to renew our pledge to assist as best as we can the advancement of all dependent peoples towards the goals of freedom and justice.
TRIBUTES

H.E. Mr. Akili B. C. Danieli
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
for the United Republic of Tanzania

On behalf of the Government and the People of Tanzania, I wish to say a few words of tribute to the late Dr. Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane.

We are gathered here today in what is called "a memorial service" for Dr. Mondlane. But surely we could not do a better service to Brother Eduardo than to pledge ourselves to those noble ideals and sacred principles to which he dedicated his entire life, and in the end died for. Indeed, this is the kind of tribute Eduardo would have wished us, his friends and followers; to pay to him.

In this vicious world of ours Dr. Mondlane will inevitably go down in history as a rebel and a political agitator. In fact the world press has already launched this malicious campaign. But history cannot afford to distort the truth for the sake of political expedience. And the truth remains that Dr. Mondlane was the very antithesis of a demagogue. His divine mission was simply to preach human dignity, human equality and freedom. He devoted his whole life to teach this immoral world something about human rights. No human-being could ever sacrifice his life for a nobler cause.

Brother Eduardo has sacrificed his life, not for the people of Mozambique or for that matter Africa alone, but for mankind as a whole. After all the Portuguese colonial appression is merely an extension of racism which plagues this planet and indeed threatens to destroy it.

Dr. Mondlane planted the tree of freedom in Mozambique and in order to complete his Mission his blood was also needed to water this tree to its maturity.
Contrary to the sinister intentions of those who committed this monstrous and cowardly act, the death of Dr. Mondlane will serve as a great inspiration to all those in the struggle for the liberation of Mozambique. The enemies of Africa and human freedom must realize that nothing is strong enough, or formidable enough, to stand in the way of the freedom and total independence of Africa. The fight has begun and nothing can stop it until we have all fallen on the field of battle. After all the history of the liberation of Africa is written in rivers of blood.

As a man Eduardo is dead, but his spirit lives on.
TRIBUTES

H. E. Mr. Hahmoud Mestiri
Permanent Representative to the United Nations for Tunisia
Chairman, Special Committee of 24 (Decolonization)

Today, we mourn a great African leader, a great freedom fighter for the dignity of the African man. Indeed, Eduardo Mondlane was a leader and for generations of Africans to come his name should and will be an outstanding example of real leadership.

Those who knew him personally in this city and in the United Nations during the early 60's, will certainly remember how Eduardo Mondlane came to choose the difficult path he followed, how he moved from being an intellectual to being a man of action, and how he become a leading politician and patriot who prompted by the love of his fatherland Mozambique and inspired by African nationalism and by his sense of humanity, decided to leave everything behind so as to undertake this arduous, difficult task, against overwhelming odds.

There were numerous sceptics at the United Nations and in Africa at his cold determination which, in the opinion of many, stemmed more from the rationalism of the intellectual than from the instinct of the realistic politician.

But Mondlane made possible the miracle of uniting the genuine Mozambican nationalists, of organizing them, of galvanizing them and of throwing them into battle in an armed struggle for freedom, against a foe who was as formidable as he was ruthless.

By uniting the Mozambicans he was uniting the whole of Africa, which, reconciled with itself, from the North to the South, moderate and revolutionary, gave him its wholehearted support, both moral and material.

Those who have plotted the criminal act which cost him his life will learn, to their detriment, that by killing Mondlane they have not eliminated what he embodied, namely a genuine nationalism which does not recognize anything
beyond freedom, Africanism and an unshakeable faith in the future of Africa.

A man of spotless honesty and heroism, Mondlane is dead but what he
brought to his people will live forever. The seed of liberty will grow
and independence will be achieved for Mozambique. Let us pray that this
may happen as soon as possible and in doing so, let us pay warm and sincere
tribute to this great hero, this great son of African Mozambique.
TRIBUTES

Dr. Guilherme Mabunda
National Union of Mozambique Students

On Monday morning, February 5, 1969, our fellow comrade-in-arms and compatriot, Dr. Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane, met with a violent, untimely tragic end. Dr. Mondlane fell at the hands of an assassin. The circumstances under which this abominable act was committed are as yet unknown.

We, African students from Mozambique, regret and condemn the assassination, political or non-political, of any individual, anywhere, at any time, by anyone, and for whatever reason or motivation.

To us Dr. Mondlane was not only a compatriot, but also a brother, colleague, and fellow revolutionary in arms against colonial oppression, subjugation and exploitation. He stood as we do and will continue to stand against these forms of domination, which we regard as human evils.

In life, Dr. Mondlane was a man of versatility, wisdom, compassion, love for his fellow men, and dedication for the liberation of his people from colonial yoke. He not only showed these talents and qualities, but he lived them. At one time, at home, in South Africa, in Portugal, and in America, he was a fellow student. We are, as he was, students. But Dr. Mondlane was more than this. He served the U.N. as an international civil servant, stood for the cause of peace for which this body stands, and strengthened its efforts to achieve its goal. In addition to this he was an educator of repute here in America. Furthermore, after his studentship and his sojourn in America, he became a fellow revolutionary for the achievement of national independence.

In his memory, we will follow the example which he set before us all. Individual men come and go, but the revolutionary movement continues.
14.

In Africa, Dr. Mondlane stood for the Mozambican unity, but also for that of Africa as a whole. The movement which he so devotedly served, FRELIMO, was born and continues as a coalition movement. Diverse Mozambican political groups merged under it. His efforts did not end here; Dr. Mondlane continued throughout to fight for unity of all Mozambican revolutionary movements.

In his works, Dr. Mondlane made efforts to keep FRELIMO intact. He was a born organizer and mediator. He made the Mozambican people's cause for national liberation known both at home and abroad, in the East and in the West, in the North and in the South. Now, our cause is common knowledge, and we appeal to men of good will to join us in this comrade’s efforts to realize this goal.

Dr. Mondlane’s life was gruesomely shortened at a moment when he could nearly see his efforts bloom and come to fruition. At the time of his death there were already in Mozambique areas that have been liberated. We wish everyone to know that these areas will expand till the whole of Mozambique is free and all southern Africa is liberated, and hence, all Africa is free, independent and united.

Let it be known, to enemy and friend alike, that the death of Dr. Mondlane is not a victory of Portugal, nor of colonialism, oppression, subjugation, and exploitation. For, in his memory, we shall continue his unfinished work, from where he left, and by all means available, reach our goal. Inasmuch as he left foreign lands for Africa, we shall also return to finish his noble work. This we wish him to know.

Be it also known, that at the time of his tragic death, there were and are more than ever before Mozambicans and Africans who are ready to further the cause for which Dr. Mondlane died. In his name we express our sincere
gratitudes to those who have sided with us materially and morally, those who have sympathized with us, and those who are here to remember his life and work together with us.

To the bereaved, Mrs. Janet Mondlane, the children and their grandparents, we extend our deeply felt condolences. We unite with them in sorrow. We will support them in their endeavors. We wish them to know that, should they wish, they will be welcome in Mozambique at any time. To Dr. Mondlane we promise not to forsake his loved ones. May the good Lord rest his soul.
TRIBUTES

Mr. Peter Weiss
President, American Committee on Africa

Others have spoken of Eduardo Mondlane, the guerrilla fighter, Eduardo Mondlane, the political leader, Eduardo Mondlane, the scholar. I would like to remember with you Eduardo Mondlane the man.

Many times in the last six years the phone would ring and there, at the other end of the wire, would be his voice, his strong, confident, cheerful voice. "Hello", it would say, "what's new?", as if he had been on vacation. As if one did not know that, since his last visit, he had been in and out of the jaws of death with his troops in the field, or organizing the revolution in one of his globe-girdling expeditions that, had taken him into every geographical and ideological corner of the world.

When he came to the house, the children would rush to him and greet him like a favorite uncle, and he would lift them up and whirl them around, and laugh with them and ask them how they were doing in school. Then, if he had been away from home for some time, he would get just the slightest bit sentimental, and remember Janet and Chuden and Eddie and Nyalete, and talk about how greatly he missed his family.

If he stayed overnight, the light in his room would often burn long after the rest of us had turned in, while he prepared a statement for the Committee of Twenty Four or attended to the Correspondence that followed him around the world. In the morning, he would be up before anyone else, jumping rope in the backyard, keeping his body in shape as he expected everyone else in the Movement to keep in shape as long as there was a war to be fought. It would have been easy for him to cheat on his daily exercise, so far away from his people, but cheating was not in his nature.

He was the gentlest of giants, and his gentleness, as well as his strength, were contagious.
I asked my six-year old son what I should say about Eduardo today and he replied, without hesitation: "Say that he was a good man and that he was our friend, and that we are very sorry that he is gone, because he did many good things".

It is difficult to improve on this epitaph, but I want to add this: If any of us falter in our dedication to the cause for which Eduardo Mondlane gave his life, if we make the slightest compromise with the oppression which he fought in Mozambique, or with the hypocrisy which he discerned so clearly in so many parts of the world, including the United States, we shall be unworthy of his friendship. And just as he, who could have led a comfortable life away from the struggle, went home to engage the enemy, so each of us must engage the enemy on our respective home grounds, where the battle is most difficult and the risks are greatest. There is no other fitting tribute to Eduardo Mondlane, who saw, as clearly as any leader of our generation, that the struggle for independence and dignity takes many forms in many countries, but that each victory in that struggle advances the common purpose.
BENEDICTION

Hosea's Prayer

"You are the Great God of all the Earth and the Heavens. We are so insignificant. In us there are many defects. But the power is yours to make and do what we cannot do. You know all about us. For coming down to earth you were despised, and mocked, and brutally treated because of those same defects in the men of those days. And for those men you prayed because they did not understand what they were doing, and that you came only for what is right. Give us the courage to struggle in that way for what is right. O Lord, help us who roam about. Help us who have been placed in Africa and have no dwelling place of our own. Give us back a dwelling place. O God, all power is yours in Heaven and Earth. Amen."
How can we tell you the size of our Dream?!

During centuries we waited that a Messiah might free us ...

Until we understood.

Today our Revolution is a great flower to which each day new petals are added.

The petals are the land reconquered, the people freed, the fields cultivated, schools and hospitals.

Our Dream has the size of Freedom.

FRELIMO, 1969